

No. 12,986

IN THE

United States Court of Appeals
For the Ninth Circuit

WING FOO,

Appellant,

WARD McGRATH, Attorney Gen-
eral of the United States,

Appellee.

APPELLEE'S PETITION FOR A REHEARING.

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eral of the United States,

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APPELLEE'S PETITION FOR A REHEARING.

Honorable William Denman, Chief Judge, and
the Honorable Associate Judges of the United
States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit:

OPENING STATEMENT.

Case poses a legal problem of considerable
importance to the United States and to the effective
administration of its immigration laws. The problem
concerns the scope and purport of Section 503 of the
Immigration Act of 1940 (8 U.S.C. 903) in its applica-
tion to a person seeking admission into the United
States for the first time, under claim of derivative

ceedings taken before the Immigration authorities prescribed by statute (8 U.S.C. 153). The decision herein may well have serious impact upon the practical efficacy of the enforcement of the migration laws intended to safeguard against the entry of aliens into the United States without authority. Appellee is convinced that a more complete presentation of the case upon rehearing will satisfy the honorable Court that the ruling of the District Court allowing into evidence the official records of the proceedings before the Board of Special Inquiry in the investigation of appellant's citizenship claim, was not in error. For the foregoing reasons, hereinafter detailed, appellee respectfully requests a reversal of the ruling herein.

I.

“TRIAL DE NOVO” IS NOT A TERM HAVING ONE INDEFINITE MEANING. WHERE, AS HERE, IT RELATES TO A SPECIAL RE-TRIAL OF AN ISSUE ALREADY HEARD IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING INVOLVING TWO PARTIES, BEFORE A TRIBUNAL AUTHORIZED BY STATUTE TO DETERMINE THAT ISSUE, THE TERM IMPLIES A RE-EXAMINATION AND RE-EVALUATION OF THE EVIDENCE ADDUCED AT THE PRIOR PROCEEDING, TOGETHER WITH A CONSIDERATION OF WHATEVER NEW AND ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE IS OFFERED AT THE DE NOVO HEARING.

Appellee finds no reported case arising under section 503 of the Nationality Act holding, in favor of, a rehearing brought thereunder by a foreign-born plaintiff in a claim of citizenship and right of entry into the United States.

and consider the contents of the record of the proceedings of that board, duly taken under the provisions of 8 U.S.C. Sec. 153. On the other hand, in *Leow Tung v. Clark*, 83 F. Supp. 482, we find the court, trying *de novo* the issue of plaintiff's derivative citizenship in a suit filed under the Nationality Act, admitted into evidence various records of proceedings had before the department and agencies to determine that issue; and, where there was such a conflict between the evidence in those proceedings and testimony given at the trial, the court decided that plaintiff had failed to meet his burden of proof that he was a citizen. In *Ying Og v. Clark*, 81 Fed. Supp. 696 the court writes with reference to Section 503 of the Nationality Act:

It is clear that the statute contemplates a trial *de novo* of the issue of citizenship and not merely a review of the administrative action." (p. 697.)

The language above quoted does not indicate a rehearing by the court hearing the trial *de novo* is precluded from any consideration of the administrative action taken on the citizenship issue.

In *Grath v. Chung Young*, 188 F. (2d) 975 (9th Cir. 1951), it appears from the opinion of this court that the determination of nationality by the trial court was based on the finding of the Special Inquiry, together with additional evidence offered at the trial.

Compensation Act of Montana. In *Wornconda Copper Mine Co.*, 43 P. (2d) 663, Supreme Court of that state held that that meant that

“all the evidence taken by the board, and additional evidence taken in the Court be considered together and that, upon evidence as a whole, the Court should render judgment.”

The foregoing interpretation of the term *de novo*” has been judicially accepted as correct in several other instances, to which we now refer to

(a) An appeal in admiralty entitles the appellant to a trial *de novo*; yet the record of the court below is part of the evidence considered at the appellate hearing.

The Cricket, 71 Fed. (2d) 61 (C.A. 9), 2 C. J. p. 318, Sec. 187a.

(b) In the article “*Appeal and Error*”, *Juris*, p. 726, Sec. 2647, it is stated:

“Under the old chancery practice and under the Code of Civil Procedure, cases of law and equity are tried *de novo* on appeal upon the entire record and evidence.”

(c) Congress, by Act of 1888 (25 Stat. 1702), granted to any Chinese person convicted by a United States Commissioner of being unlawfully within the United States in violation of the Exclusion Laws, the right to appeal his conviction

imately reached the United States Supreme Court following the taking of such an appeal. In *Ng Fung Ho v. White*, 276 U.S. 609, it appeared from the Supreme Court opinion that the record of the proceedings before the Commissioner was received in evidence by the District Court as part of the proof upon which the case was tried *de novo*; and this practice was, at least tacitly, approved by the Supreme Court. (*Liu Hop Fong v. United States*, 209 U.S. 453; *Ah How v. United States*, 193 U.S. 65; *Tom Hong v. United States*, 193 U.S. 101)

In the leading case of *Ng Fung Ho v. White*, 276 U.S. 609, in commenting on the *judicial* nature of exclusion proceedings under the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Supreme Court stated, at page 283: "The trial is commenced usually before a Commissioner of the District Court; but on an appeal to the District Court additional evidence may be introduced and the trial is *de novo*." (Italics supplied.)

This court held in *Carmichael v. Delaney*, 170 F.2d 239, (9th Cir. 1948) that a *resident* of the United States claiming citizenship, whose return to the United States from abroad is prevented by an executive order determining him to be an alien, may, by proceeding in habeas corpus, obtain a *judicial* trial on the issue of his claim to citizenship. Yet, it is observed by this court that at such *judicial* trial, the record is made before the Board of Special

in addition to other evidence received:

(e) The court may take judicial notice of numerous instances in which Federal statutes providing for a judicial trial *de novo* of issues previously determined administratively, also expressly provide for the admission of the administrative record and evidence to be considered at the *de novo* trial.

The manner in which State Superior Court trials are conducted in California upon appeals from judgments rendered in Justice's Courts on questions of fact, offers no criterion for the manner in which a trial contemplated by federal law that a trial *de novo* had under Section 503 of the Nationality Act. The issue of the citizenship of a foreign-born non-citizen after the same had been previously heard and determined in executive exclusion proceedings. Nothing, trial proceedings in California Justice's Courts are not officially reported and there is, consequently, no record available for appellate consideration. Furthermore, California Code of Civil Procedure Section 980a is so phrased as to require, in the opinion of the California Courts, the legal conclusion that the proceedings in the court below, on questions of fact, intended by statute not to be considered on appeal. Neither can any analogy favorable to appellate review be drawn from the manner in which a new trial is conducted when held before the same tribunal. In the latter case, the new trial results from some error which requires a complete vacation of the former proceedings.

"*de novo*" in the instant case, or the reasons
authorities herein given which fully support that

II.

**APPARENT THAT CONGRESS NEVER INTENDED BY SEC-
503 OF THE NATIONALITY ACT, TO PROVIDE FOR
JUDICIAL TRIAL DE NOVO OF A CLAIM TO CITIZEN-
SHIP ASSERTED THEREUNDER, WITHOUT REGARD FOR
EVIDENCE PROVED AT PRIOR EXECUTIVE PROCEEDINGS
FULLY HELD TO DETERMINE THAT VERY ISSUE.**

years prior to the enactment of the National-
ity Act of 1940, Congress provided by statute for a
comprehensive procedure whereby foreign born per-
sons seeking entry into the United States under claim
of native citizenship, might have their claims
examined and determined by executive officials of the
Department. (Immigration Act of 1917, 8 U.S.C. 153.)
This procedure has been long established by Supreme Court author-
ity. When a person, who has never resided in the
United States,

presented himself at its border for admission,
the mere fact that he claimed to be a citizen did
not entitle him under the Constitution to a
judicial hearing; and that unless it appeared that
Departmental officers to whom Congress had
entrusted the decision of his claim, had denied
him an opportunity to establish his citizenship,
or refused a fair hearing, or acted in some unlawful or
improper way or abused their discretion, *their*
action upon the question of citizenship was con-

Quon Quon Poy v. Johnson, 273 U.S. 352, 353, citing *United States v. Sing Tuck*, 194 U.S. 161, 162; *United States v. Ju Toy*, 198 U.S. 253, 263; *Chung v. United States*, 208 U.S. 8, 11; *Tang Tun v. United States*, 223 U.S. 673, 675; *Ng Fung Ho v. White*, 276, 282.

This court has recently commented upon the wisdom of legislation committing to the final determination of executive officers of government, the determination of non-residents to derivative citizenship, and of giving such determination to judicial review with regard not only to the fairness of the administrative hearing but also to the merits of the determination recorded. In *Carmichael v. Delaney*, supra, the court recognized the potential practical difficulties in the enforcement of the Chinese Exclusion Act, describing them as (p. 243, footnote 4) "difficulties which would be intensified if the members of the undesired race were held entitled to a trial more formal than an executive hearing."

In the face of the long established national policy and procedure governing the enforcement of the exclusion of aliens seeking to enter the United States unlawfully, and the reasons underlying that policy and procedure, it would be entirely inconsistent therewith now to ascribe to Section 503 of the Nationality Act of 1940, a meaning which might effectuate a complete negation of such policy and procedure, although the reasons therefor remain constant. Appellee submits, therefore, that

class to which appellant belongs, wherein, following a full and fair administrative hearing and final determination on the issue of his citizenship, he may litigate that issue without respect for the facts and findings reached at the administrative hearing. If we are to maintain the integrity of those administrative proceedings, which are conditioned upon the result to any trial *de novo* under Section 503 of the Nationality Act,—for there can be no right of a judicial trial thereunder, until there has been an administrative trial of citizenship,—the term “*trial de novo*” must be accorded the meaning which has been given it in the numerous instances hereinbefore specified. If otherwise, untenable consequences can be expected to result from which the instant case is an example. That is, a foreign born person claiming a right of citizenship by virtue of derivative citizenship, whose claim is required by law to be heard and determined by the administrative authorities, may, if his claim be denied, obtain a judicial trial *de novo* of the issue of citizenship, by filing a suit under Section 503 of the Nationality Act. Then at the trial *de novo* he may successfully exclude from the court’s examination the entire content of the record of the prior proceedings which contain evidence damaging to his claim, albeit such evidence is in fact in his own behalf. Thus he becomes enabled to use the administrative processes of this Government as a preliminary trial run of his claim, and he can assure himself of a more advantageous result than at the judicial trial *de novo* of his citizenship.

It is little answer here that the witness Gong, was in San Francisco at the time of the physical presence there did not assure the government to produce him, or validate plaintiffs' objection to the trial court's consideration of the testimony he himself introduced at the prior administrative proceedings.

The weight and credibility to attach to the testimony lies within the exclusive control of the judge, whose experience will qualify him to do so in proper context in relation to whatever additional evidence is offered *de novo*. Sitting in a court of equity, he should not be restricted in his consideration of this testimony, by the more technical rules of evidence which obtain in common law.

III.

APPELLANT'S AUTHORITIES DO NOT SUPPORT HIS POSITION THAT UPON A JUDICIAL TRIAL DE NOVO OF AN ISSUE DETERMINED IN A PRIOR PROCEEDING BETWEEN THE SAME PARTIES, THE CERTIFIED RECORD OF THE PRIOR PROCEEDING IS INADMISSIBLE AS EVIDENCE THEREOF. THE RECORD IS CONSIDERED BY THE COURT AT THE DE NOVO HEARING.

None of the cases cited in appellant's opening brief uphold the principle that a court trying *de novo* an issue previously determined in an administrative proceeding involving the same parties, is forbidden from the benefit of proof elicited at the prior proceeding. The part of the evidence upon which its judicial

No quotations cited on page 5 of appellant's brief, are from cases which merely rule that administrative hearings which do not have objective the determination of issues between have no probative value in a subsequent judicial proceeding thereof. An exclusion proceeding before the Board of Special Inquiry, acting under statutory authority of Title 8, U.S.C., Section 153, is for the express purpose of finally determining citizenship of persons presumptively alien.

In appellant's reply brief, p. 3-4, he cites the case *Pittsburg S.S. Co. v. Brown*, 171 Fed. (2d) 175. This case does not present proper analysis and distinction, might not be relied upon to lend support to his position with respect to the nature of the trial *de novo* to which he was here entitled. Actually, the contrary is so. *Pittsburg S.S. Co. v. Brown* was a case factually similar to that presented to the Supreme Court in *Crowell v. Benson*, 382 U.S. 199, 85-22. Both cases involved the same legal issue, related to the admissibility in evidence of the results of an administrative proceeding, at a judicial proceeding *de novo* of certain of the matters determined in the administrative proceeding. The decision in *Pittsburg S.S. Co. v. Brown* followed that of *Crowell v. Benson*. We therefore turn to the latter case to demonstrate that appellant's authority, rather than his position, actually substantiates that the Board of Special Inquiry is competent to decide with respect to the meaning of trial *de novo* in a suit under Section 503 of the Nationality

Act. *Crowell v. Benson*, like *Pittsburg S.L. Brown*, involved a suit to enjoin the enforcement of a compensation award made under the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act. The Supreme Court there held that the trial court's granting *de novo* issues of fact upon which depended the jurisdiction of the Compensation Commission in making the award, was justified in refusing to receive in evidence the transcript of the testimony before the Deputy Commissioner relating to that particular issue. But each reason advanced for the holding reached in *Crowell v. Benson* accentuates the weakness of appellee's contention here as to the propriety of a trial *de novo* in a suit under Section 30 of the Nationality Act. We therefore submit the following analysis of *Crowell v. Benson*.

First, *Crowell v. Benson* held that the determination by the Compensation Commission of the facts necessary to sustain its own jurisdiction, need not have been accorded evidentiary weight in the trial before the United States District Court, and that a trial *de novo* was for the very purpose of justly ascertaining whether that jurisdiction actually existed. But at page 57, the court makes this qualification:

"In relation to the Federal government, we have already noted the inappropriateness to permit a constant inquiry of decisions with respect to questions of fact upon evidence and with the authority conferred, made by administrative agencies which have been created to ai

performance of government functions and where the mode of determination is within the control of Congress." (Italics supplied.)

Citizenship of a foreign born person, presumption, alien, who seeks admission into the United States for the first time, is not a fact upon which the determination of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to exclude aliens has been made to depend. The fact which has been committed by law to the determination of that executive agency.

United States v. Ju Toy, 198 U.S. 253, 8 U.S.C. 153.

Section 503 of the Nationality Act has enlarged the scope of the court's power to review such a determination, it still remains the law that the determination of citizenship in the case above mentioned, is within the power of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to determine.

Finally: The rule of *Crowell v. Benson* is extended and limited in its application to cases arising between private litigants. On page 50, the court states: "As to determinations of fact, the distinction is once apparent between cases of private right and those which arise between the government and persons subject to its authority in connection with the performance of the constitutional functions of the executive or legislative departments." Thus Congress, in exercising the powers conferred to it, may establish 'legislative' courts to serve as special tribunals 'to examine

and determine various matters arising from the government and others, which from their nature do not require judicial determination yet are susceptible of it'. But 'the most important matters of this class is controlled within congressional control. Congress may reserve to itself the power to decide, may confer that power to executive officers, or may confer it to judicial tribunals.' "

Thirdly: *Crowell v. Benson* did not hold that the District Court was in that case forbidden from receiving in evidence the record before the Deputy Commissioner. It merely held that inasmuch as the case being tried *de novo* related to the jurisdiction of the Deputy Commissioner to hear and determine the matter before him, the court was "under no obligation to give weight to his proceeding pending the determination of that question." (p. 64.)

Finally: Justice Brandeis, dissenting from the majority opinion in *Crowell v. Benson*, expressed the view that the trial court should have been permitted to receive in evidence and consider the record before the Commission, stating, p. 85:

"Nothing in the Constitution, or in any previous decision of this court to which attention is here called, lends support to the doctrine that a judicial finding of any fact involved in a proceeding to enforce a pecuniary liability may not be made upon evidence introduced before a properly constituted administrative tri-

a determination so made may not be deemed independent judicial determination." (Italics applied.)

CONCLUSION.

ant makes no claim that he was not accorded
ess at the exclusion proceeding before the
Special Inquiry to determine his citizenship
r that the determination by that Board was
on substantial evidence. He seeks, however,
t an impotency to the entire exclusion pro-
and the resulting determination unfavorable
citizenship claim, by reading into the term
de novo", a meaning which could well succeed
g upon this government the difficult burden
oving a claimed father-son relationship al-
have its origin on foreign soil. And thus
e, a presumptive alien, successfully relieve
f the burden which at all times is legally his,
ishing by a preponderance of the evidence,
ed States citizenship; a burden which should
upon him full responsibility for explaining
cies in testimony of his own offering at the
ring.

ee respectfully submits that reason and law
ast any definition of "*de novo*" in pro-
under Section 503, which would deny to the
et below the right to examine and weigh the
veloped at proceedings before the Board of

Special Inquiry, on the issue of appellant's
ship.

Dated, San Francisco, California,
March 24, 1952.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL.

I hereby certify that I am of counsel for appellee
petitioner in the above entitled cause and that in
opinion I support the foregoing petition for a rehearing
granted in point of law as well as in fact and
no other petition for a rehearing is not interposed

San Francisco, California,

March 24, 1952.

ANTOINETTE E. MORGAN,
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